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## Introduction

The Agricultural Statistics Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is responsible for providing information and statistics about the entire agricultural industry in the state. In 1994, The State Legislature approved funds establishing a Rotational Surveys Program. The Rotational Surveys Program is designed to provide information on sectors of the state's agriculture that are outside the realm of the current statistical program. The 1996 NORTH CAROLINA EQUINE SURVEY is a product of this program and was completed through the cooperative agreement between the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and United States Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the 1996 Equine Survey was to determine the inventory and economic impact the equine industry has in North Carolina. Estimates of inventory by county and breed, income, expenses, assests, labor and demographics are presented to help define the industry. The goal was to provide accurate, reliable and unbiased estimates that can be used by everyone in the equine industry. Refer to page 15 for an explanation of survey procedures and methodology.